IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 30 and 31 are amended as indicated below. No claims have been added. No claims have been cancelled. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1   29.   (Previously amended) A method for use in a detector device for controlling access

2   to information on a network including a plurality of interconnected devices, the detector device

3   coupled to the network between a first device and a second device, the method comprising:

4   monitoring a plurality of request signals for data between the first device and the second

5   device in the network, at least one request signal including a user identification parameter;

6   determining whether a user identified by the user identification parameter in the request

7   signal is permitted access to the data;

8   comparing a predetermined parameter associated with the user with a pre-determined

9   parameter associated with the data to determine permission to access the data; and

10   in response to the comparison, providing a response to the request signal; and

11   in response to an operational failure within the detector device, allowing the plurality of

12   request signals to pass uninterrupted between the first device and the second device.

1   30.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling access of claim 29, wherein the

2   provided response comprises allowing access to the data when the predetermined <u>parameter</u>

3   associated with the user is greater than or equal to a predetermined parameter associated with the

4   data.

1   31.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling access of claim 29, wherein the

2   provided response comprises allowing access to the data when the predetermined <u>parameter</u>

3   associated with the user is less than or equal to a predetermined parameter associated with the

4   data.

1   32.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the provided response

2   comprises re-directing the data signal to a third device in response to the predetermined

3   parameter associated with the user being less than the predetermined value associated with the

4   data, the third device allowing for a re-setting of the predetermined parameter to a new parameter

5   comprising a value greater than or equal to the predetermined parameter associated with the data.

1   33.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the predetermined

2   parameter is one from a group comprising a positive monetary value, a positive time value, a

3   bandwidth value, a quality of service value, and a content rating.

1   34.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising allowing

2   access to one from a group comprised of voice data, video data, and a real-time application in

3   response to at least one of the bandwidth value or quality of service value being greater than or

4   equal to a threshold parameter.

1   35.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising providing

2   access to a second data that does not require a parameter value in response to either the

3   predetermined parameter associated with the user being less than or equal to the predetermined

4   parameter associated with the data or the user not having permission to access the data

5   corresponding to the request signal.

1   36.   (Previously amended) A network-based billing method on a detector device for

2   providing access to resources on a network, the detector device coupled to the network such that

3   the detector device does not introduce a point of failure if the detector device becomes

4   inoperable, the method comprising:

5   monitoring a data signal from a device on a network, the data signal including a request

6   for a resource;

7   identifying a value for accessing the resource;

8   associating a user identification with the data signal;

9   determining whether a user identified by the user identification is permitted access to the

10   resource;

11   identifying a credit balance for the user identification;

12   comparing the credit balance with the value to determine access to the resource;

13   in response to the comparison, determining a response to the request; and

14   in response to an operational failure within the detector device, allowing the data signals

15   to pass uninterrupted between the resources on the network.

1   37.   (Previously added) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further

2   comprising allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being less than or

3   equal to the cost preventing access to the resource.

1   38.   (Previously added) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further

2   comprising allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being greater than or

3   equal to the cost preventing access to the resource.

1   39.   (Previously added) The method of claim 36, further comprising re-directing the

2   data signal to a second resource in response to the credit balance being less than the cost, the

3   second resource configured to allow for increasing the credit balance.

1   40.   (Previously added) The method of claim 36, further comprising providing access

2   to a second resource having no cost in response to the credit balance being less than the cost.

1   41.   (Previously added) The method of claim 36, wherein the cost comprises one from

2   a group comprising a monetary value, a quality of service value, a bandwidth value, a time value,

3   and a content rating value.

1   42.   (Previously added) The method of claim 36, further comprising passing the data

2   signal to a second device having the resource.